#### MEMORANDUM

October 23, 2014

TO: Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Glenn Orlin, Deputy Council Administrator

SUBJECT: Resolution to authorize advance taking for Chapman Avenue Extended project

On October 7, 2014 the County Executive requested authority to condemn, by the advance taking procedure, fee simple acquisitions or easements on four properties—totaling 10,097sf for fee simple acquisitions, 3,157sf for permanent easements, and 8,466sf for temporary construction easements—for the construction of the <u>Chapman Avenue Extended</u> project in the White Flint area of North Bethesda.

The Executive's letter transmitting this request is attached as ©1-2 and a draft resolution is on ©4-5. Plats showing the location of the easements are on ©10-12. A map showing the location of the proposed advance taking is on ©13.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) wrote to the affected property owners notifying them of the Executive's request and when the Committee and Council would meet on the matter. One example of the letter is on ©14.

DOT staff will be on hand to answer Councilmembers' questions about the Executive's request. The full Council is tentatively scheduled to take action on October 28.

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### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

5009241

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

#### **MEMORANDUM**

October 7, 2014

TO:

Craig Rice, President

Montgomery County Council

FROM:

Isiah Leggett, County Executive

SUBJECT:

Chapman Avenue Extended

CIP Project No. 500719

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 074-10, the Department of Transportation (DOT) has authorized the extension to Chapman Avenue from Randolph Road to Old Georgetown Road within the 4<sup>th</sup> Election District of Montgomery County, Maryland. The County proposes improvements along a 1,350 foot segment of Chapman Avenue. The roadway improvements include: construction of 5' concrete sidewalks on both sides of the roadway with a green space between the curb and sidewalk, construction of a retaining wall along the Forum Condominium Property up to 5' high and 252' in length, construction of a storm drainage and storm water management, streetlights, signing and pavement marking, and reconfigure traffic signals at Randolph Road.

The planned construction impacts 18 properties and 13 Property Owners along Maple Avenue, Nebel Street, and Old Georgetown Road. Negotiations with the Property Owners for the necessary right-of- way acquisitions began in July 2007 and are continuing. To date, the County has settled 12 properties with 9 Property Owners. In order to maintain the County's construction schedule, however, it has become necessary for the County to seek authorization from the Council to obtain immediate possession of portions of those properties for which the County has not yet been able to negotiate an amicable resolution with the Property Owners. Accordingly, the Council is being requested to authorize the County to proceed with its Advance Taking procedures under Montgomery County Code § 49-50 in order to take immediate possession of the remaining properties.

Authorization to commence Advance Taking procedures will not end the County's efforts to continue to negotiate toward an amicable agreement with the subject Property Owners. However, due to construction time constraints, formal authorization to commence Advance Taking procedures is being requested at this time.

The following is a status report of the DOT's negotiation efforts to date with the Owners of the properties subject to the proposed Advance Taking.

- 1. The Council of Co-Owners of the Forum Condominium The acquisition consists of 1 property including 1,332 square fee for a perpetual easement and 2,030 square feet for a temporary construction easement. Contacts with the Property Owner have included initial and updated offer letters, a letter transmitting a proposed Option Contract, 21 email conversations with the Forum's representative Todd Lewers, and 3 meetings. The Forum Board of Directors approved the acquisition, but the Board was advised to postpone signing the Option Contract until it has followed the procedures of the Maryland Condominium Act. The County is expecting a signed Option Contract.
- 2. <u>I.P. Associates LLC</u> The acquisition consists of 2 properties including 3,095 square feet in fee simple, 320 square feet for a perpetual easement, and 878 square feet for a temporary construction easement. Contacts with the Property Owner have included initial and updated offer letters, a letter transmitting a proposed Option Contract, 4 telephone conversations with Property Owner's representative James Whalen, 14 email conversations with Mr. Whalen, and 2 meetings. The parties have reached an amicable agreement. The County is expecting a signed Option Contract.
- 3. Washington Real Estate Investment Trust (WRIT) The acquisition consists of a fee taking containing 15,002 square feet of land, a permanent drainage easement containing 1,505 square feet, and two temporary construction easements containing 2,383 and 1,723 square feet of land area. Contacts with the Property Owner include initial and updated offer letters, 6 telephone calls with the Property Owner's representative Robert Stoddard, 3 emails conversations with Mr. Stoddard, and 1 meeting. Staff has not reached an amicable agreement with the Property Owner.
- 4. White Flint Station Council of Unit Owners- The acquisition consists of 2 properties with two small temporary construction easements containing 694 and 758 square feet. Contacts with the Owner include initial and updated offers letters and 5 telephone calls with Property Owner's representative John Harris. Staff has not reached an amicable agreement with the Property Owner.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. County Council Resolution
- 2. Executive Order No. 74-10
- 3. Map and Plats



### **ATTACHMENT NO. 1**

| RESOLUTION  |  |
|-------------|--|
| INTRODUCED_ |  |
| ADOPTED     |  |

#### COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

#### By County Council

SUBJECT: Optional Procedure for Condemnation of Land, Advance Taking CIP Project No. 500719

In accordance with Article III, Section 40A, Maryland Constitution and Section 49-50, 2004 Montgomery County Code, as amended.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- I. The Council has been requested to authorize the condemnation of the portion of land necessary to extend Maple Avenue from Randolph Road to Old Georgetown Road in North Bethesda and to construct improvements including a sidewalks, streetlights, storm drainage, storm water management, and underground utilities in accordance with §49-50 of the Montgomery County Code, (2004) as amended.
  - 1. In order to meet the construction schedule, as authorized by the Montgomery County Council, the County must acquire the properties referenced below in a timely manner.
  - 2. The County has been unable to complete negotiations for Option Contracts with the Property Owners listed below.

#### RIGHT OF WAY IN SQUARE FEET

| OWNER   | ACCT.#                 | LOT/BLOCK<br>OR<br>PCL./MAP GRID                    | LIBER/ FEE<br>FOLIO SIMPLE         | REV./PERP.<br>EASEMENT |          |
|---|------------------------|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| The Council of Co-Owners of the Forum Condomini | um                     | Parcel 1/<br>Montrose Pavilion                      | 4393/193 0                         | 0/1,332                | 2,030    |
| I.P. Associates, LL                             | C 00056205<br>00056216 | P159/HQ12<br>P166/HQ12                              | 16148/396 1,641<br>16148/396 1,454 | 0/320<br>0/0           | 0<br>878 |
| Washington Real<br>Estate Investment<br>Trust   | 00046651               | Parcel A/<br>C.D.T. Associates<br>Addition to Montr | 32349/179 15,002<br>ose            | 0/1,505                | 4,106    |



Resolution for Advance Take Chapman Avenue Extended CIP Project No. 500719 Page 2 of 2

| Council of Unit  | Parcel A/       | 32453/214 | 0 | 0/0 | 758 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------|---|-----|-----|
| Owners of White  | Jefferson Villa |           |   |     |     |
| Flint Station, A | Parcel B/       | 32453/214 | 0 | 0/0 | 694 |
| Condominium      | Jefferson Villa |           |   |     |     |

#### **ACTION**

- I. The County Council finds that there is an immediate need to take possession of a portion of the property listed above and approves the Resolution authorizing the condemnation of land under the optional method for condemnation of land for streets or roads specified in Section 49-50 2004 Montgomery County Code for the extension of Chapman Avenue from Randolph Road to Old Georgetown Road. In furtherance of these actions, the County Council hereby:
  - 1. Guarantees the payment of any amount above the estimated fair market value later awarded by a jury; and
  - 2. Appoints Melville E. Peters, ASA CRA Maryland Certified General Appraiser, to appraise the fair market value of the property.
  - 3. Orders the County Attorney to acquire the listed property under this procedure.
- II. Montgomery County will take immediate possession of the listed property upon filing petitions of advance taking in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland and depositing with the Court the fair market value of the property, as determined by the appraiser appointed above. The County may abandon these proceedings at any time prior to payment of the fair market value of the listed property into the Court.
- III. The County Attorney is hereby directed to take all necessary steps to acquire the property.

| THIS IS A CORRECT O  | COPY OF COUNCIL ACTION |
|----------------------|------------------------|
|                      |                        |
|                      |                        |
| Linda M. Lauer       |                        |
| Clerk of the Council |                        |

## **ATTACHMENT NO. 2**



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDER



Offices of the County Executive • 101 Monroe Street • Rockville, Maryland 20850

| Subject: CHAPMAN AVENUE EXTENDED (CIP #500719) | Executive Order No. 074-10 | Subject Suffix and<br>SR |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Originating Department                         | Department Number          | Effective Date           |
| DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION                   |                            | 03/22/10                 |

- 1. Pursuant to Section 49-54 of the Montgomery County Code (2004) as amended, and Executive Order 260-08 the County Executive hereby finds that public interest requires the construction of an extension to Chapman Avenue from Randolph Road to Old Georgetown Road, a public way located in North Bethesda-Garrett Park in election district 4, as follows:
  - Construct approximately 1350' of roadway with a 40' cross section width from curb to curb.
  - Construct 5' concrete sidewalks on both sides of the roadway with a green space between curb and sidewalk of 6' to 8'.
  - Construct a retaining wall along the Forum Condominium Property up to 5' high and 252' in length.
  - Construct storm drainage and storm water management improvements.
  - Install streetlights, signing and pavement marking and landscaping.
  - Reconfigure traffic signals at the Randolph Road intersection.
  - Acquire property and remove buildings.

The extension will provide connectivity, access, roadway continuity, and facilitate pedestrian movements by linking retail, planned employment and residential centers. The removal of local trips from MD355 between Old Georgetown Road and Randolph Road will help to reduce congestion-related accidents and improve emergency vehicle accessibility and response times. The extension of Chapman Avenue supports the master plan which emphasizes the need for new local roadway links to relieve congestion on MD355 and to support planned development in the White Flint area.

- 2. A Public Hearing was held on the project at 3:00 p.m. on December 3, 2008, in the lobby level auditorium of the Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland. The Hearing Examiner recommended approval of the project.
- 3. Estimated cost of the proposed improvement (heretofore designated as CIP No. 500719) and estimated funding allocations thereof are as follows:
  - \$ 4,639,981.74 Costs to be assessed for special benefits against applicable properties
  - \$ 7,552,018.26 Costs not otherwise incurred, to be borne by Montgomery County
  - \$ 12,192,000.00 Total estimated cost of the project, including construction management and inspections, land acquisition, utilities, site improvements, and construction.
- 4. Unless otherwise approved by the County, expenditures authorized by this Order plus expenditures accrued to date for this project shall not exceed \$12,192,000 and shall be made payable from funds appropriated for CIP Project No. 500719.

(7)



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDER

Offices of the County Executive • 101 Monroe Street • Rockville, Maryland 20850

| Subject: CHAPMAN AVENUE EXTENDED (CIP #500719)      | Executive Order No. 074-10 | Subject Suffix and<br>SR   |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Originating Department DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | Department Number          | Effective Date<br>03/22/10 |

Copy to:

County Executive File

Secretary of Council Director of Finance (2)

APPROVED:

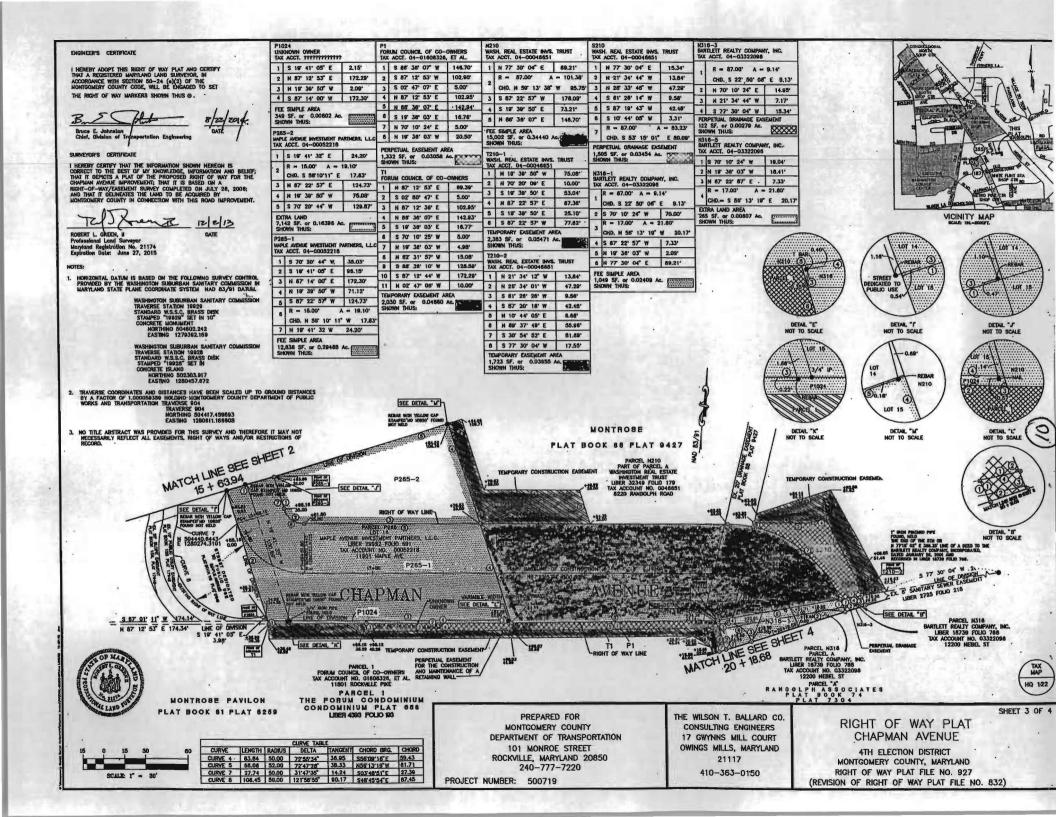
Thomas J. Street

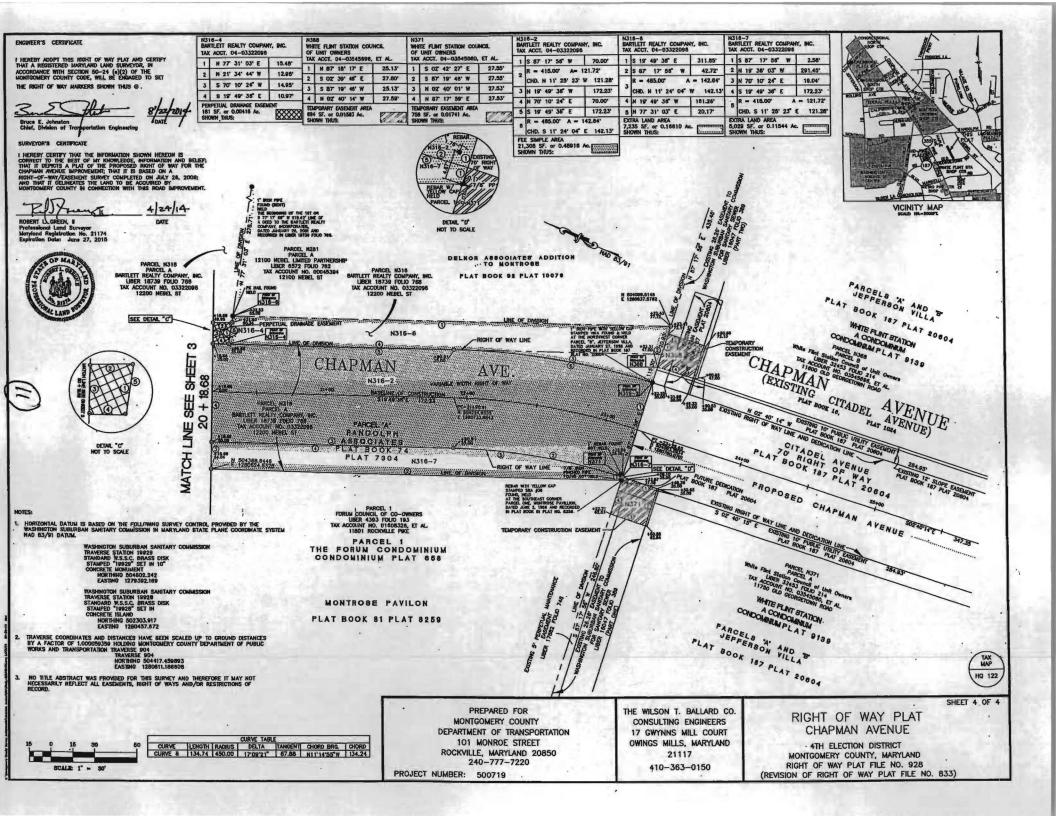
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

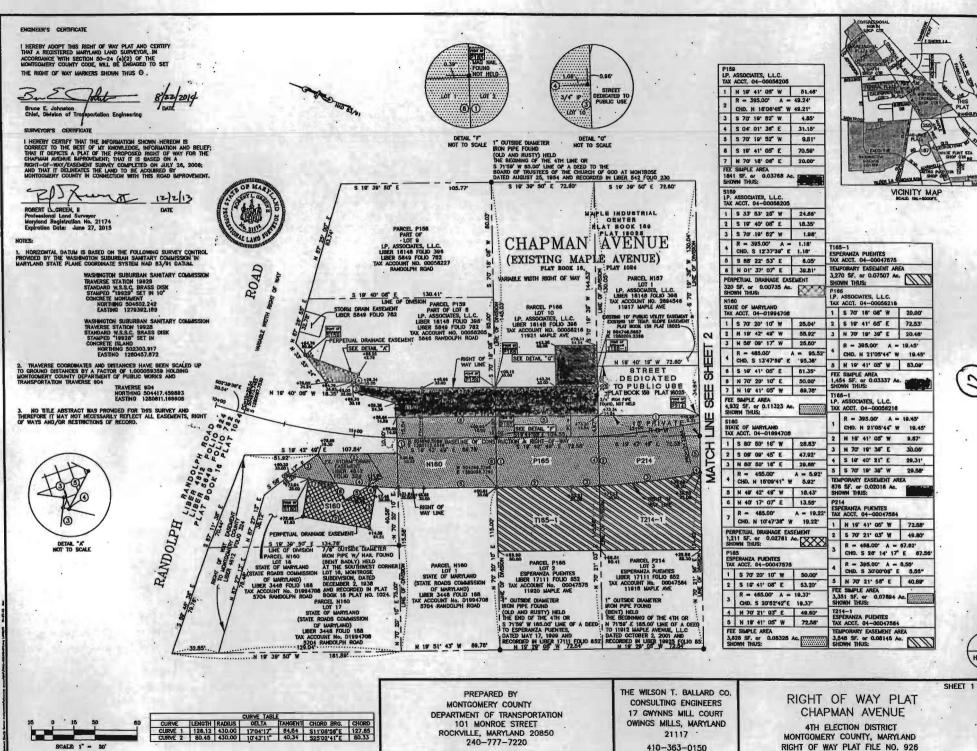
Approved as to form and legality Office of the County Attorney

ate 3/16/2

## ATTACHMENT NO. 3







PROJECT NUMBER:

500719

HQ 122

SHEET 1 OF 4

(REVISION OF RIGHT OF WAY PLAT FILE NO. 830)

15 02 Ac.

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#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Isiah Leggett County Executive

October 17, 2014

Arthur Holmes, Jr. Director

Via Electronic Mail and First Class Mail

Mr. James F. Whalen I.P. Associates, LLC 11 North Washington St., Suite 200 Rockville, Maryland 20850

RE: Chapman Avenue Extended CIP Project No. 500719 I.P. Associates, LLC

Dear Mr. Whalen:

The County Executive requested, and the Council approved, funding for the extension to Chapman Avenue from Randolph Road to Old Georgetown Road. The Council appropriated funds to acquire the property needed to construct the improvements. Over the last several months, this Department has been working to secure the necessary right of way, but as there are still several properties still pending, and in order to avoid any delay in the construction of the project, we are asking the County Council for the authority to acquire those properties under the County's power of eminent domain - advance take procedure.

If the Council approves the request, the County Attorney will file an Advance Take Petition to immediately take possession of the property referenced above and will deposit funds with the Circuit Court that correspond to the fair market value of the property rights acquired, as determined by a qualified, licensed real estate appraiser. If an Advance Take Petition is filed, further information will be provided to you regarding how to withdraw those funds deposited with the Circuit Court. The funds deposited with the Circuit Court do not necessary dictate the amount of money ultimately received, either as a result of further negotiations or a jury trial, if one is necessary. We can certainly continue to try to reach an agreement for the acquisition of the needed right of way.

The advance take request will be addressed by the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment Committee on October 27, 2014 at 9:30 a.m., in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room, and by the full Council on October 28, 2014. Please call the Council Office on the day of the hearing to learn the precise time and location. You are welcome to attend and listen to the discussion of this matter, but there will not be an opportunity to speak at the Council session. Comments may be sent, either by mail to 100 Maryland Avenue, 5th Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850; or by e-mail to county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Sincerely.

Thomas J. Reise

Chief, Property Acquisition Section

**Division of Transportation Engineering** 

100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor • Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878 • 240-777-7220 • 240-777-7277 www.montgomerycountymd.gov